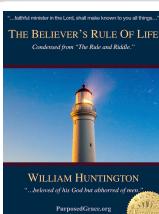


# SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

**October 29th, 2017**

“Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and HE shall sustain thee: HE shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”

(PSALM 55:22)



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Sunday School	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	11:00 am
Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm

## Nursery

*Nursery available for 4 years old and younger*

**This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR EMERITUS JACK SHANKS**

**LEVITICUS 16:1-13 - THE GOSPEL IN LEVITICUS**

To find our podcast search for the keyword PurposedGrace on

 Apple's Podcast App or  Google's Play Music App

**\*Our featured sermon is made available each Sunday at 6:00 PM**

## A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST

*“...A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST...” (PHILEMON 1:1)*

Beloved, take notice of what the apostle writes *“Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ.”* Notice, our brother does not write that he was a prisoner of Nero or a prisoner of Rome but rather, Paul makes us to know, he was exactly where the Lord wanted him to be. Beloved, whatever the suffering, whatever the difficulty, whatever trial or trouble came upon him, Paul always looked upon it as being the will of His Lord. There is a lot to learn here, much to learn, as one brother intimated in the most affectionate way; ‘God graciously makes His people to kiss His sovereign hand and bless Him for His good providence in everything.’

In another place the apostle writes *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* (PHILIPPIANS 4:11) I pray, the Lord enabling, that we could cultivate the same spirit among His people, indeed that is the outlook we ought to have in everything. Beloved, I’m so glad that the apostle didn’t say *“I knew it already”* rather, ever so blessedly he said *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* How did he do that? How can you and I be content in whatsoever state? How can you and I be content in times of difficulty, pressure, and what is seemingly like utter and complete failure?

Beloved, by God’s undeserved grace in Christ, we can be content by having this one thing stayed in our hearts and minds: I’m here according to the purpose of my Heavenly Father, according to the perfect will of my God, that although I may not see it right now, somehow our Mighty God is going to use all things for His glory and the good of His people...all the while trusting and hoping, that I’m including among them.

Though Nero the Emperor of Rome compelled Paul outwardly, inwardly Paul knew that he was exactly where his Lord purposed him to be. As someone once said “That’ll keep us from trying to live in the future...and it’ll keep us from trying to always straighten out the past.” By knowing that where we are, what we’re doing, and what we’re going through is according to God’s perfect will. For beloved, He *“hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* (2 TIMOTHY 1:9)

PASTOR

## JUST A FEW MORE AFFLICTIONS

“MAKE US GLAD...” (PSALM 90:15)

[Just] a few more struggles, poor burdened believer, and thou shalt see all is well. Expect no good from corrupt nature. God has called thee to feel that in thy flesh dwells no good thing. Why look for the living in such a dead, corrupt mass? God help thee to flee to, rest upon, and live in Christ. Thou art called to be partaker of His holiness, not thy fleshly works, but to flee from them, and daily to twine round and hang upon Christ. There may thy soul be stayed, for in Him thou art complete, and nowhere else.

[Beloved], this salvation and this holy calling are not according to our works, but according to God’s purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. Salvation, in all its bearings, is according to God’s own purpose and grace, secured in Christ before time. Thanks be to God for that. All we feel and fear, all our sins and woes, all our darkness and deadness, loathsomeness and vileness, cannot alter God’s purpose and grace, which is secured in Christ. Remember, poor, tried, tempted, tossed-about sinner, it is of God’s grace; yea, God’s purposed grace. Thy miseries tend to prove that this glorious salvation, this holy calling, are just what thou needest—just suited to thee; and it is God’s own purpose to call thee to the sweet participation of them. They are thine by the solemn purpose and free-grace grant of a covenant God; and each glorious Person in the one undivided Jehovah takes pleasure in putting thee in possession of it. The time will come when thy Lord will say to thee, *“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah; for the Lord delighteth in thee; and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee;”* *“The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. He will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing.”* The glorious marriage of the Lamb and his wife will very soon be consummated in everlasting bliss and blessedness; and *“blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* [AMEN!]

PASTOR WILLIAM GADSBY

## A WEDDING HYMN

"JESUS WAS CALLED...TO THE MARRIAGE." (JOHN 2:2)

At Cana, Lord, Thou didst appear  
To grace a marriage feast;  
We ask Thee likewise to be here,  
And be a wedding guest.

Upon the bridal pair look down,  
Who now have pledging hands;  
Their union with Thy favour crown,  
And bless the nuptial bands.

With gifts of grace their hearts endow;  
Of all rich dowries best!  
Their substance bless, and peace bestow,  
To sweeten all the rest.

In purest love their souls unite,  
That they, with Christian care,  
May make domestic burdens light,  
By taking mutual share.

True helpers may they prove indeed,  
In prayer, and faith, and hope;  
And see with joy a godly seed,  
To build Thy household up.

As Isaac and Rebecca give  
A pattern chaste and kind;  
So may this married couple live,  
And die in friendship's bind.

On every soul assembled here,  
O make thy face to shine;  
Thy goodness more our hearts and cheer,  
Than richest food or wine.

[PASTOR] JOHN BERRIDGE

From '*A Selection of Hymns, for Public Worship*' by William Gadsby

John Berridge wrote his own epitaph, in part this is what he had engraved on his own tombstone... "Reader! art thou born again? (No salvation without a new birth.) I was born in sin, February, 1716; remained ignorant of my fallen state till 1730; lived proudly on faith and works for salvation till 1754; was admitted to Everton Vicarage, 1755; fled to Jesus for refuge, 1755; fell asleep in Jesus, January 22, 1793." [JOHN 3:1-15]